

LIBERTY

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August/September 1999

Jefferson County School board

by Tom Goonan

I have more than the required 50 signatures on a nominating petition for the District 3 seat of the Jefferson County School Board (State District R-1). District R-1 disburses about \$500 million taxpayer dollars annually, is generally accepted by parents as a "good" school system, and is home of the Columbine tragedy.

School board races are non-partisan, however, it is a job that could benefit from the application of libertarian principles. Some of the material, which follows below, will appear in my brochure and campaign speeches. Here are the issues, as I see them now:

Whole system representation: The primary stakeholders in the educational system are: Students, parents, service providers (teachers, etc.), taxpayers and future employers. Education is a personal and community issue. All of the stakeholders must win before the system can claim success.

Student - Parent - Teacher Partnerships: Students are the reason we have an education system. The desired product of this system is an individual capable of making rational, responsible decisions and having the necessary skills for success in life.

A student - parent - teacher partnership can produce good results when there is communication and involvement. I recall teachers visiting my parents in our home to discuss me and my progress. I profited from this approach in my educational experience and will encourage it in the Jeffco schools.

Teacher - Administrator Ratios: Teachers must be allowed to teach. That means being freed from needless paperwork and harassment from stifling bureaucracies. There is no need for micro-management of teachers. Most teachers want time to nurture and talk with students. Teacher creativity should be encouraged. One way to reduce the administrative burden on teacher time might be to pay students to do some of it. Students, functioning

A Letter to Legislators and the Press from Colorado's Teens

To whom it may concern:

We, the undersigned, are Colorado teenagers who believe the right to bear arms is fundamental to our form of government and to the safety of our communities.

We do NOT agree with anti-gun lobby groups such as SAFE that more gun controls will make our communities safer. Rather, the gun control measures now proposed will serve mostly to take guns out of the hands of peaceable citizens, leaving good people less able to defend themselves against violent criminals. Criminals just avoid the laws anyway. Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold broke at least 17 gun control laws – a couple more would not have stopped them.

Through increased training and education, we believe we can reduce gun violence. But ill-conceived "feel-good" laws can only make matters worse. Citizens use handguns over a million times per year to thwart crime. Even more crime is prevented because many would-be criminals are afraid to enter armed communities. Thus, households with guns help protect even the members of SAFE, because criminals don't know which potential victim might be armed. In addition, Professor John Lott has shown that a wider carry of handguns actually drastically reduces the number of mass murders.

If politicians are serious about making society safer, they will make it easier, not harder, for honest citizens to carry guns. If politicians are serious about preserving our heritage of freedom as we enter the new millennium, they will turn a critical eye toward anti-gun lobbies like SAFE.

Sincerely,

Desirae Davis, 16, Hotchkiss High School
Brant Hoffman, 13, Littleton High School
Jody Stodghill, 18, Primero High School

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Notes from the Chair

Dear Friends of Liberty,

When does an election really start? If we look around us, it would appear that an election starts more than 18 months before the day of the election. Not only are the R's and D's doing their best to win the vote of the people but even the so-called third parties are getting into the act, at least nationally.

Where does the Libertarian Party of Colorado stand in all of this? In times past, because of difficulties associated with running candidates, the LPC has waited until the year of the election to begin the bid for office. Things have changed, though. We are now a Minor Political Party - no more petitioning. With that came members who were willing to run for office. Our members contributed seed money at the convention so we can get our campaigns off the ground. We have had several candidates come forward already- a year before the election! We are ready to begin the groundwork for election day 2000.

What is truly exciting is that for the first time we will have the money and the time to plan ahead, to create a campaign strategy. The following steps are the foundation for our plan.

- 1) Identify each member's U.S. Congressional and State Senate districts. Look on your mailing label. If you see CD and SS followed by numbers we know what district you live in. If there are no numbers, please help us out by calling the office, leaving your name and the number of your districts.
- 2) Identify areas of the state where we have voter support. We get more votes than we have registered voters so we have to look at election results. David Bryant has analyzed some of the results from last year's election and found several areas where we have considerable voter support.
- 3) Locate races in which our candidates can make a good showing and where people will be encouraged to support us. Several things go into making a good race. Is it located in a high voter support area? Is it likely to be an unopposed race? Will we have more than one candidate on the ballot in that area? Can we get our message out to the voters at a low cost? Do we have good candidates for the race? Again, David Bryant is analyzing the various races statewide to help us come up with answers to these questions.
- 4) Find candidates both to run serious races and to fill out the ballot in other races. How fortunate we are to already have a declared U.S. Congressional Candidate in District 2 and a 'exploratory' candidate in District 3. Both of these districts also have pockets of high voter support. We would like to fill the slate in these areas. State house and senate seats candidates in these areas are likely to see higher election totals.

What you can do to help? First, make sure we have your district numbers both for U.S. Congress and for State Senate. Second, help us find candidates. Become one yourself or help us find someone who wants to make a difference by running for office. Third, become part of a campaign. One of the things we lacked most during the last election were enough volunteers. And one last thing you can do for us is to watch your local paper for mentions of Libertarians or the Libertarian Party. If you find any please forward them to our office in Denver.

Thank you for being a part of all of this!
Sincerely,
BetteRose Smith

LIBERTY

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Printed by Quality Press.

Jill Tappen, 13, Janitell Junior High School
Bryan Tappen, 15, Mesa Ridge High School
Molly Watson, 14, Durango High School
Todd Williams, 12, Escalante Middle School
Brandon Shelstad, 13, Watson Junior High
Dylan Wyscaver, 13, Arvada West High School
Sean McMahon, 14, Durango High School
Ashley Morgan, 14, Eagle Crest High School
Daniel Smith, 16, Denver Christian High School
David Gasper, 17, Golden High School
Dan Gasper, 18, Golden High School (graduate)
Jeremy Hedrick, 12, Salcon Creek Middle School
Travis Hubred, 18, Gilpin County High School
Dustin Hubred, 15, Gilpin County High School
Tracy Wigman, 15, Central High School (Grand Junction)
Corrinne Lowe, 14, Central High School (Grand Junction)
Mark Widegren, 15, Palisade High School
Ben Widegren, 18, Palisade High School (graduate)
Stephen Knotts, 16, Homeschooled Student
Gina McIntyre, 16, Fruita Monument High School
Loren Wright, 13, Ortega Middle School
Sarah Wright, 17, Alamosa High School
Adam Jelinek, 12, Pagosa Springs Middle School
Eric Langford, 14, Centauri High School
Cory Langford, 13, Centauri Middle School
Josh Miller, 14, Douglas County High School
Justin Miller, 15, Douglas County High School
Ryan Prunk, 13, Huron Middle School
Ryan Johnson, 15, Alamosa High School
Craig Shawcroft, 13, Centauri Middle School
Jennifer Bush, 12, Centauri Middle School
Matthew Bush, 14, Centauri Middle School
Johnathan Bush, 16, Centauri High School
Travis McKnight, 12, Bayfield Middle School
Clint Phillips, 14, Center High School
Travis Phillips, 12, Skogland Middle School
Drew Ford, 13, Ortega Middle School
John Paul Bradley, 19, Sargent High School (graduate)
Cody Golden, 13, Monte Vista Middle School
Nick Bien, 17, Heritage High School
Marcie Berggren, 18, Sargent High School (graduate)
Heath Berggren, 15, Sargent High School
Meara McDaniel, 18, Sargent High School (graduate)
Cody Hazard, 15, Mountain Valley High School
Jesse Griggs, 13, Bayfield Middle School
Josh Griggs, 15, Bayfield High School
Rebecca Prim, 17, Grand Junction High School
Derek Heersink, 10, Evens Elementary
Shane Gylling, 13, Ortega Middle School
Jenny Johnson, 13, Ortega Middle School
Clayton Richards, 16, Moffat County High School
Sarah Hauze, 16, Hotchkiss High School
Jed Pouruir, 16, Moffat County High School
Ron Cox, 17, Moffat County High School
Jeff Ward, 17, Fruita High School
Melanie Nara, 19, Hotchkiss High School (graduate)
Jessica Zimmerman, 16, Paonia High School
Jessica Borich, 16, Paonia High School
Jake Custer, 16, Paonia High School
Carin Clary, 16, Paonia High School
Jake Cary, 14, Centauri Middle School
Joe Cary, 14, Centauri Middle School
Adam Hawks, 13, Walt Clark Middle School

Kristin Paris, 15, Palisade High School
Daniel Honaker, 16, Lakewood High School
Jeff McKay, 15, Lakewood High School
Lisa Colombo, 17, Gateway School
Jessica Colombo, 18, Gateway School (graduate)
Julie Moores, 17, Gateway School
Trevor Taylor, 18, Palisade High School (graduate)
Vincent Taylor, 15, Palisade High School
Stephen Pitton, 17, Palisade High School
David Pitton, 18, Palisade High School (graduate)
John Pitton, 18, Palisade High School (graduate)
C.J. Rhyne, 18, Palisade High School (graduate)
Jason Miller, 17, Homeschooled Student (Montrose)
Jamie Miller, 18, Homeschooled Student (Montrose)
Steve Miller, 15, Homeschooled Student (Montrose)
Kase Branham, 13, Gateway School
Emily Branham, 15, Gateway School
Grant Kleeves, 16, Homeschooled Student (Montrose)
Chad Kleeves, 14, Homeschooled Student (Montrose)
Ty Coram, 15, Homeschooled Student (Montrose)
Margo Coram, 17, Montrose High School
Lucas Walker, 19, Homeschooled Student (graduate, Glade Park)
Samuel Walker, 15, Homeschooled Student (Glade Park)
Emily Seim, 12, Redlands Middle School
Kara Dietrich, 15, Grand Junction High School
Rebekah Huff, 14, Central High School (Grand Junction)
Bryan Huff, 19, Central High School (graduate)
Tim Huff, 17, Central High School (Grand Junction)
Kristy Moores, 17, Gateway School (graduate)
Josh Becker, 12, Homeschooled Student (Grand Junction)
Kate Patton, 14, Grand Junction High School
Andrea Evans, 14, Central High School (Grand Junction)
Nathan Robinson, 14, Grand Junction High School
Alex Granskow, 14, Grand Junction High School
Darell Smith, 14, Grand Junction High School
Kolbe Scheetz, 14, Homeschooled Student (Montrose)
Cecilia Scheetz, 15, Homeschooled Student (Montrose)
Rosemary Scheetz, 12, Homeschooled Student (Montrose)
Jacinta Scheetz, 17, Homeschooled Student (Montrose)
Brent Koenig, 16, Bayfield High School
Jared Shelden, 13, Branson School

Libertarian of the Year Banquet Award

Who is Colorado's Libertarian of the Year? Come to the banquet in Colorado Springs and find out! This year's Libertarian of the Year banquet will be hosted again by the El Paso County Libertarians. They have rounded up a great speaker, Vin Suprynowicz, for this autumn event. Anyone who has heard Vin speak knows this will be a great affair. Tickets are only \$40 and include a wonderful dinner. Please make plans to attend and help make this a successful event.

When: October 2, 1999 Cocktails at 6:00, Dinner at 7:00
Where: Colorado Springs Double Tree Inn; I-25 & Cir. Rd.
Contact: Carol Geltemeyer (719) 596-6799

as teacher's aids, could earn income and receive graduation credits for the experience.

Discipline: Disruptive behavior in classrooms wastes teachers' and students' time. In plain language, it violates their rights. If learning is not the reason that the student is in a particular classroom, then the uninterested person should be consulted regarding their needs and if those needs cannot be accommodated by the system, then the person should be invited to leave.

With regard to discipline, no single level of structure can satisfy all. Therefore, Jeffco schools should offer alternative learning cultures. The student - parent - teacher partnership can counsel and help the student to choose the best learning culture for his or her individual personality.

Dropout Rates: Student dropout rates can be indicative of the educational system's failure to meet the student's needs. I believe the best way to assure that there are no round pegs in square holes is to drill more round holes instead of using a bigger hammer. Students should be more thoroughly consulted about programs that will occupy a large portion of their time.

By offering a fee-based program for older adults to get their high school diploma, the system can accommodate those who, for whatever reason, are not ready to pursue it in their youth. It might even be possible to offer GED credits to older adults in exchange for in-kind contributions of their experiences to the students. In this way, dropping out is only an indicator, not a problem.

Curricula: One should not have to go to college to get a high school education. What is it that colleges do, that prep schools don't do, to engage students in the learning process? They provide a minimal core of prerequisites and a large menu of electives geared towards some compromise between the needs of students and the needs of potential employers. Why not do that at the prep school level? Local employers can be asked for curricula input, and solicited for volunteers to act as mentors to the student-apprentice. Such a program would give the student-apprentice early exposure to corporate culture.

Not everyone will work for a corporation. Some will be more suited to operating their own business. These students may prefer to try their hands at being entrepreneurs, and there should be electives to help them achieve their goal. There is a large pool of retired entrepreneurs that could be asked to serve as mentors to these students.

Teaching Methodology: The marketplace of educational ideas on how best to teach is large, as evidenced by the numbers of different types of private schools. Shouldn't the public school system, where students are forced to attend under mandate of compulsory attendance laws, be at least as diverse in method as the private school system? I will sup-

port any effort to apply time-tested successful teaching methodologies within the public school system. I will encourage teachers, who want to apply proven methods, to do so. Objective comparisons and parent-student choice will work to weed out non-performing methodologies. There is no ethical reason to be wedded to a system where students march from room to room at one hour intervals when a bell sounds.

Teacher Compensation: Teachers, who help students reach personal pre-determined, goals that have measurable success criteria, should be compensated well for accomplishing one of society's most important functions. On the other hand, those teachers who consistently fail to serve the objective needs of students and parents should be helped to find alternative employment. No one should be entitled to impede personal growth.

One means of securing the best qualified teachers might be to have an employment selection team composed of students, parents, and other teachers. This team could make hiring recommendations, and be given veto power over hiring decisions. A single administrator may not always make the best hiring decisions with respect to the needs of his or her customers.

Taxpayer's Interests: When someone pays for something, especially when they have no choice about it, they should get some value in return. If the taxpayer were convinced by objective data that the product being produced with his or her tax dollar was indeed an asset to the community, then he or she would be more likely to be willing to pay for such a product. A few value criteria for a rational taxpayer might include: Improved test scores, higher graduating rates, active community involvement by students.

There is no reason to ask a taxpayer for more money when one is wasting the money already taken. Every budgetary line item should be scrutinized for return on investment, and every expense justified. I will work tirelessly for transparent budgeting and spending. Resource distribution and use conflicts should be resolved through negotiation and compromise, NOT on the basis of relative power, often exercised at students' expense.

Competitiveness: Appropriately channeled competitiveness can raise the performance levels of all competitors. Appropriate competitiveness is competition against one's own past performance. Regular recognition for personal improvement should be a hallmark of the educational process.

There is a need, for some, to compete against others, and outlets for this need should be provided. The number of outlets should be greater than the number of sports choices available. Competitive oratory, debate, chess, crafts, music, etc. should have equal weight with sports. Sports should be on two levels, school-to-school, for those who thrive in the zero-sum environment, and intra-mural for those who just want to have fun and exercise.

Security: Parents are entitled to know that their children are happily learning something, and will arrive home safely with their property and virtue intact. The best way to achieve this end is to install the educational culture described previously. However, there will always be the potential for ad hoc violence, theft and abuse, especially in large institutional settings. More, smaller buildings, distributed throughout Jeffco's neighborhoods would add to security at the same time creating opportunities for more educational culture choice.

Summary: I have a vision of Jeffco as a very large campus (NOT a consolidated monolith) with an array of learning settings and opportunities, populated by willing students who are achieving their personal growth goals through positive interaction with the community. At the same time, I see a community willing to enable such a vision. My job on the board would be to facilitate progress towards the vision. To get 50 signatures, I spent two hours for four nights to talk to households about the Jeffco schools. I needed to speak to only 55 persons to get the 50 signatures. The public is seriously disappointed with the current board, especially its apparent unwillingness to communicate, and its taking of unilateral actions, like cutting bussing without sufficient public hearings. My message is resonating very well, based on my petitioning experience.

My campaign will be seriously under funded. The strategy presently is to put up a good web site, respond to speaking engagements, and have a brochure to hand out. I'll do more door-to-door work, but I can't walk the county, and the voting will be at-large, even though I would only represent a district. So, consider adding yourself to the strategy. If you are a Jeffco resident and like my stances on the issues, you can help my candidacy by telling friends, or just finding me speaking opportunities within your circles. The campaign will accept monetary and in-kind donations in September, after the appropriate filings with the State have been made.

You can reach me at 303-202-9069, or e-mail tgoonan@sprintmail.com.

LPBC web site features info about locals

The LPBC web site has been freshened up quite a bit lately, thanks to the efforts of Membership Director Tom Parker and former LPBC Chairman Chris Bogart. New features include the new LPBC mission statement, complete bylaws, a list of new officers, and some new links. Please check out on the revitalized LPBC web site at: <http://www.quetzal.com/lpbc>

Congratulations to Paul Grant, Colorado's Libertarian Lawyer Extraordinaire!

Richard G. Combs

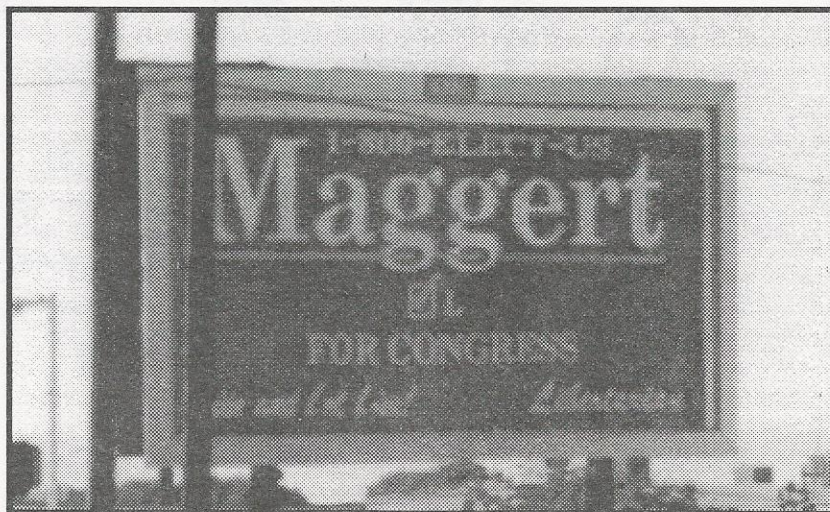
The Institute for Justice (IJ), a libertarian public-interest law firm headquartered in Washington, DC, awarded Paul Grant its very first "ZAP Award." IJ created the ZAP Award to honor "IJ training alumni who remove bad laws from the books."

Grant received the award for his US Supreme Court victory in "Buckley v. American Constitutional Law Foundation," which successfully challenged several restrictions on initiative and referendum petitioning. The Supreme Court, in overturning the restrictions on First Amendment grounds, expanded on its ruling in the 1988 petitioning case "Meyer v. Grant", in which Paul was the plaintiff.

Grant attended IJ's 1994 Law Student Conference and is a member of its Human Action Network. The award was announced in the May 1999 issue of "Liberty & Law," a bimonthly publication of IJ. In the article about the award, IJ's outreach coordinator, Maureen Blum, says of Grant, "His dedication to liberty is to be commended and admired. Paul Grant has certainly set high standards for future ZAP Award recipients."

IJ is a non-profit organization that I strongly urge libertarians to support. They are explicit about their libertarianism. They have been astonishingly effective in using both the courts of law and the court of public opinion to advance the cause of liberty, especially in areas of economic liberty, property rights, commercial speech, and school choice.

For more information about IJ, visit www.ij.org.



1998 Maggert for Congress Billboard. Will we see this again in 2000?

Letters to the Editor

Editor:

Jon Geltemeyer uses the semblance of reasonableness to hide his doublespeak. He decries "more restrictive laws that will only exasperate [sic] our abortion woes." Does he truly speak for the Libertarian Party? Has the Libertarian Party decided, as others more infamous have in the past, that some human lives are by definition not human lives, or simply are not worth the trouble to defend?

I expose the speciousness of his argument and unmask the unsupportedness of his assertions by the simple procedure of replacing the word "abortion" in his prose by other words, say, "killing Jews."

"Whether you believe killing Jews is right or wrong is a personal moral decision or, if you will, a matter of hearts and minds. If people believe there is nothing wrong with killing Jews then no law, not even a constitutional amendment, will change their minds, or their actions. If you believe that only laws and regulations mold our society then I'm afraid the Libertarian Party has nothing to say to you."

If the Libertarian Party cannot be trusted to defend the right to life as well as it defends the derivative rights to liberty and the pursuit of happiness, who can?

I hope Jon Geltemeyer will soon disavow his Libertarian pledge, since he apparently believes the advocacy of initiation of force against unborn human beings is a defensible position.

Dr. Wes Munsil



Editorial Cartoon by Chris

Have you seen this quote?

Hitler reputedly said "Today German sets a new standard for the nations of the civilized world. We have been the first nation to enact comprehensive gun registration ushering in a new era of peace and safety"

The following is a reprint of Letter to the Editor Printed in Denver Rocky Mountain News

Editor:

In a June 17 letter, Judy Moore quotes Adolf Hitler regarding gun registration in 1935. This quote is bogus. Hitler never said it, and no gun control measure was enacted in Germany during 1935. As a Libertarian, I think the real story is a better argument against gun control than this fake Hitler quote.

It wasn't the Nazis who enacted universal gun registration and other civilian disarmament measures in Germany. It was the "moderate centrist" social democrats of the Weimar Republic who preceded them. They did so in response to growing political violence by militant extremists such as the Nazis and Communists. They argued that the government had to "do something" to stop the violence and make the streets safer.

I'm sure that some people in 1920s Germany argued (as we Libertarians do today) that disarming the civilian population turns citizens into subjects, denies people their fundamental right of self-defense, and opens the door to tyranny.

And the "moderate centrists" of the time no doubt countered with "Oh, you're just paranoid extremists. This is the 20th century and Germany is a civilized, democratic country. The government isn't going to run amok if you can't have assault weapons! These are reasonable measures that make us all safer."

There's no way to know whether an armed citizenry could have prevented the Third Reich. But at least resistance would have been possible. Compare the fate of shotgun-wielding Korean store owners during the Los Angeles riots with that of disarmed, helpless Jews during Kristallnacht.

Richard G. Combs

Libertarian Jurists

by Tom Goonan

In the previous issue of the Colorado Liberty, we solicited input from the readership about their jury experiences, mainly to determine whether there was any discrimination against libertarians serving on a jury. We received 20 responses. Some have actually served on juries, others have never been called. The responses may be inconclusive, but the details of some experiences are instructive. Here are some of them.

R.H. writes, "...about 12 years ago... I was selected for a jury in Jefferson County Court and the judge was giving us final instructions. He said, 'are you able to set aside your personal prejudices and beliefs and decide this case by the rules of law that I give you?' The other 11 people sat silently as I thought this over. Finally I asked, 'Do you mean that if you tell me to decide this case in a way that I personally believe to be immoral or ethically wrong, I am to decide it the way you tell me to and not in accord with my own conscience'. The judge answered, 'Yes!' The prosecuting attorney jumped up protesting and the judge had me off of that jury so fast that I wondered what had happened."

L.G. writes, "I was called for jury service about nine months ago. Yes, I was registered to vote (Libertarian). It was a traffic case (six-man jury). I was seated and did not respond to all but one question (no response meant that I was answering no to the questions). The judge then asked if there was any reason that anyone would not be able to be completely impartial. I hesitated (thinking of Laura Kriho) and answered that I didn't believe in victimless crimes. I was then dismissed by the state's attorney."

J.M. writes, "I have been called to jury duty twice. Both times I was registered as a Libertarian. I served on both juries. Both were in Denver court. The first was an assault case, the second was a first degree murder case. On neither occasion was I asked a question about politics. The first time, one question asked of many people was: 'Do you think the use of violence is ever justified?' Everyone said, 'No!', before I was asked. I said, 'Only in self-defense.' After that, everyone asked said that it was OK in self-defense."

D.U. writes, "I was called to serve about a year ago in a Boulder County Court. At the time, I was a registered Libertarian. The case involved a man accused of dealing in drugs. During questioning, the prosecuting attorney asked, in effect, if any potential jurors had any qualms about the drug laws. I felt compelled to reveal my libertarian opinions on the matter. Because I badly wanted to participate in the process, I also stated that, in this case, I would be willing to uphold the law. After further questioning, the prosecutor asked that I be excused without cause."

K.B. writes, "I have been called to jury duty twice, both times as a registered Democrat. I have never served after *voir dire*." One case involved a juvenile arrested

with others in a car theft. He was also charged with carrying a concealed weapon. I was asked by the prosecuting attorney if I had any reason to believe that police officers were prejudiced against minorities (the defendant was Hispanic). The trial was immediately following the O.J. Simpson trial, so I mentioned Detective Mark Furman, the beating of Rodney King, and other incidents, and said there may indeed be cause to be suspicious of police motives.

C.B. writes, "The case involved a threatening phone call [with domestic implications]. The [prosecuting attorney] asked this hypothetical question, '[If the] Colorado Legislature, being enamored with the second Bronco Super Bowl win, passed a law stating, 'All persons shall wear orange on Mondays or face imprisonment.', and you are on a jury of a man accused of failure to wear orange, which is proven beyond a doubt, what is your verdict?'"

"What I heard from the first seven jurors made me ill. They all basically said, 'The law is the law, convict'. Then they got to me, and I said, 'Absolutely not.' The [prosecutor] asked me to clarify. I expressed how it would be wrong to harm the innocent by implementing bad law, and my conscience couldn't allow me to convict.....higher law prevails, and it is wrong to be a partner in harming the innocent. The remaining jurors all sided to liberty, even one who said something like, 'I have a mind, I'm not brainless.' I was eventually dismissed when the jury was narrowed to six persons."

J.S. reports, "I have been called twice, and served once as a libertarian. The case, on which I served, was a sexual harassment charge against a police official. During *voir dire*, I expressed several opinions which I thought would get me thrown off the jury. It turned out to be a six-day trial. I felt my libertarian views played a strong part during jury deliberation, particularly when arguing about what kind of award to give the plaintiff. Sexual harassment can be a very emotional subject. Many jurors wanted to go to the bank. But the award would be paid by the police department with tax money - our money. I successfully argued this so the plaintiff only received recompense for money actually lost due to early retirement. I believe that, in the end, all the jurors understood they were responsible for handling public money in this particular case."

This sample demonstrates that libertarians can be called, can serve, and most likely will be educating others with their words and deeds, whether they serve or not. Educating is service of the highest order. A special thanks to all who participated in this exercise.

Special Notes:

Libertarian of the Year Banquet: Don't forget to attend the Libertarian of the Year Award Banquet on October 2, at 7:00 p.m. (cocktails at 6:00 p.m.) Guest Speaker will be Vin Suprynowicz, a great writer and speaker. Get details from the calendar in this issue or by calling Carol Geltemeyer at (719) 596-6799

Success '99 coming to Denver: The folks at national headquarters are again bringing their instructional event to our state. People who attended the event in 1997 found it to be entertaining and helpful. This year's event will feature only one track but lots of information to the activist. Make plans to attend this November event. Details are in the calendar of this issue of the Liberty. You may also sign up or ask for more information by calling the national office - (202) 333-0008.



Tom Goonan, Craig Stinson, BetteRose, and Richard Lamping at the Fruit Picking Protest.

Fruit Picking Protest a Success!: Once again Libertarians joined together in protesting the INS by picking fruit at Talbot Farms in Palisades, Colorado. With interviews and photographers from three TV stations, this proved to be one of Colorado Libertarians' most successful solo events. Look for details in the next Liberty.

Calendar

Please send calendar updates to monahan@idcomm.com

September, 1999

• 9/25 - Sat. - Hemp/Cannabis Relegalization Summit II - CU Campus - By invitation only; contact Laura Kriho at cohip@levellers.org.

• 9/27 - Mon. - LPBC Activists' Luncheon Every Monday at Noon - Healthy Habits, Foothills Parkway & Baseline, Boulder. Call Ron Bain at (303) 443-9179.

October, 1999

• 10/2, 9, 16, 23, 30 - Denver Breakfast Group Every Saturday at 8am - LePeep, Mexico and Colorado Blvd, Denver. Call David Aitken, 303-831-4334, daitken@tde.com.

• 10/4, 11, 18, 25, 29 - LPBC Activists' Luncheon Every Monday at Noon - Healthy Habits, Foothills Parkway & Baseline, Boulder. Call Ron Bain at (303) 443-9179.

• 10/5 - Larimer County Activist Breakfast Every First Tuesday at 7am
Joe's Fireside Cafe, 238 S. College Ave., Ft. Collins.
Call Lee Smith (970) 635-0395.

• 10/7 - Libertarian Community of Jefferson County Every 1st Thursday
6:00pm social time, 7:00 pm business meeting
Tom Goonan's home: 12895 W. 16th Drive, Golden
Call Tom, h(303) 202-9069, w(303) 236-8747, ext. 228

• 10/14 - LPBC Board Meeting - Every Second Thursday. Location to be announced - 6:30 p.m.
Call Ron Bain at (303) 443-9179 for location.

• 10/18 - Ft. Collins Activists Every 3rd Monday at 7:00pm
China Dragon, 1401 W. Elizabeth, Fort Collins.
Contact Dan Cochran (970) 667-7557.

November, 1999

• 11/1, 8, 15, 22, 29 - LPBC Activists' Luncheon Every Monday at Noon - Healthy Habits, Foothills Parkway & Baseline in Boulder, Noon.
Call Ron Bain at (303) 443-9179.

• 11/2, 13, 20, 27 - Denver Breakfast Group Every Saturday at 8am
LePeep, Mexico and Colorado Blvd, Denver.
Call David Aitken, 303-831-4334, daitken@tde.com.

• 11/2 - Larimer County Activist Breakfast Every First Tuesday at 7am
Joe's Fireside Cafe, 238 S. College Ave., Ft. Collins.
Call Lee Smith (970) 635-0395.

• 11/4 - Libertarian Community of Jefferson County Every 1st Thursday
6:00pm social time, 7:00 pm business meeting.
Tom Goonan's home: 12895 W. 16th Drive, Golden
Call Tom, h(303) 202-9069, w(303) 236-8747, ext. 228

• 11/11- Thurs. - LPBC Board Meeting - Every Second Thursday. Location to be announced 6:30 p.m. Call Ron Bain at (303) 443-9179 for location.

• 11/13-14 - S/S - Success 99 - How to run successful campaigns and how to build your local organization. Featuring National Director Steve Dasbach, Political Director Ron Crickenberger, Communications Director Bill Winter. Also Michael Cloud, Barbara Goushaw, and Jim Lark. \$79 per person. Call the Balcom Group at 202-234-3880.

• 11/15 - Ft. Collins Activists - Every 3rd Monday at 7:00pm. China Dragon, 1401 W. Elizabeth, Ft. Collins. Contact Dan Cochran (970) 667-7557.

April, 2000

• 4/14-16 - Fri-Sun - State Convention - Election of candidates, delegates, seminars, guest speakers, banquet and parties. Early registration: \$99.
Contact: Michele Bethke - 303-690-2907

National Organizations

Libertarian Party - US National HQ (202)333-0008
2600 Virginia Ave. NW #100, Washington DC 20037
<http://www.lp.org>

National Chair - David Bergland (714)966-1211
1773 Bahama Place, Costa Mesa, CA 92626
E-mail: dpbergland@earthlink.net

LNC Representative - BetteRose Smith (303)639-5530
PO Box 460202, Glendale, CO 80246-0202
E-mail: betterose@aol.com

LNC Alternate - Ed Hoch (907) 479-4593

New Member Line 1-800-353-2887

State Organizations

Libertarian Party of Colorado
State LP Office (303) 837-9393
720 E. 18th Ave. #309, Denver, CO 80203

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RockWare, Inc., 2221 E. St., Floor 1 Golden, CO 80401
dean@rockware.com

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E-mail: tgoonan@sprintmail.com

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Local Organizations

Arapaho County Libertarians - Rich Shaw
(303)771-1920 P. O. Box 1141, Parker, CO 80221

Aspen "The Liberty Coalition" - Tom Peckham (970) 925-6027
PO Box 9766, Aspen, CO 81612

Aurora Libertarians - Doug Newman (303)369-3809
999 S. Carson Ct., #203, Aurora, CO 80012
E-mail: dougnewman@juno.com
<http://www.geocities.com/capitolhill/7093>

Boulder County - Tom Parker (303)665-2150
829 Welsh Ct., Louisville, CO 80027-2706

Broomfield Libertarians - Wright Morgan (303)465-9676
P.O. Box 131, Broomfield, CO 80038-0131

Chaffee County Libertarians - Carol Hill
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1240 Ogden #4, Denver, CO 80218
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El Paso County LP - John K. Berntson (719)532-0118
242D W. Rockrimmon Blvd., Colo. Spgs., CO 80919
E-mail: JKBColoSp@aol.com

Florissant Libertarians - Michael DeNoto, Jr.
(719)689-2348
10287 County Road, #11, Florissant, CO 80816

Greeley/ Weld Libertarians - Pam and Pete Stapp
(970)356-0803 929 16th St. Apt. B, Greeley, CO 80631

Gunnison Libertarians - Michael Simpson
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Northeast Colorado Libertarians - Christopher Bennett
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106 Heather St. Sterling, CO 80751-4446

Park County LP - Chris Shepard (303)838-9025
PO Box 1187, Bailey, CO 80421-0187
E-mail: maverick@mastermind.net
Website: <http://maverick.mastermind.net/LP/>

Routt County "Common Sense Club"
Robert Jahelka (970)879-4127
PO Box 881987, Steamboat Springs, CO 80488

San Luis Valley Libertarians - Robert Johnson (719)379-2767
HCR 68 Box 51, Ft. Garland CO 81133
E-mail: sdj@amigo.net

San Miguel County - Bill Masters (970)728-4249
P.O. Box 747, Telluride, CO 81435-0747
wsmasters@yahoo.com

Southside Libertarians (Englewood, Littleton, Highlands Ranch) - Bennett Rutledge (303) 860-1308
6710 S. Glencoe Apt. 111, Littleton, CO 80122-2356

Southwestern Colorado Libertarians - Bill Zimsky
(970)385-5107 FAX (970)385-5226
PO Box 3005, Durango, CO 81302

Summit County Libertarians - John Sabal (970)262-6369
PO Box 958, Frisco, CO 80443

Western Colorado Libertarians - Brent Shroyer (970) 675-2337
PO Box 292, Rangely, CO 81648

Random Thoughts

By Ron Bain, LPBC Chairman

Ghost Dancers of the Fireworks, Written July 4, 1999

*Ghost dancers of the fireworks
Chase away our demons
Of oppression, ignorance and hatred.*

*In our millennial quest for freedom
We chant our war song of Truth,
Freedom, Liberty, Responsibility.*

I've been researching my Native American heritage lately, and came across a passage about the Ghost Dancers of the 19th Century. Composed of the members of several conquered tribes, the Ghost Dancers conducted giant pow-wows that were supposed to invoke the Great Spirit to drive the tyrannical white men from their lands. In other words, the Indians, who had lost the physical fight, thought they could win by psychic means, or just plain wishing hard enough. It occurs to me that Libertarians are a lot like those Ghost Dancers. We are not numerous or powerful enough yet to achieve the goals we desire, but it seems some of us think we'll achieve our goals by just wishing hard enough. Throughout the party, from national top to local bottom, we need a renewed commitment to political ACTION, not just rhetoric and internal party debate. I want to support a presidential candidate who is committed to raising the funds necessary to buy time on prime time TV. I want to support Congressional candidates who are committed to the notion of being a 'spoiler,' candidates who will command media attention by carrying more votes than the number which divide the two major challengers. I want to support local candidates who are committed to vote totals in the teens, twenties, thirties, even the victory column.

That's right - I want to see the Libertarian political party actually PLAY POLITICS! That means doing things just to curry media attention, hoping to make points about principle after the mule has been struck over the head with a two-by-four. I spoke recently with a highly placed individual in the production staff of KCNC-Channel 4, and asked him what would it take for the Libertarian Party to get local TV coverage. It's not victories -- we've had victories, and he acknowledged that our victories haven't been on TV. It's not our principles or platform -- they know about them and aren't particularly excited. No, what this knowledgeable and influential media individual told me we needed to get local media coverage was "somebody with charisma." That's why I was prepared to support Jacob G. "Bumper" Hornberger for President until he dropped out of the race -- I believe he has the kind of charisma the media is looking for. But in the upcoming presidential race, what we need more than anything else is a principled, well-spoken, charismatic candidate who already has name

recognition among the American public. Here's a possible slate of presidential nominees and veeps we'll be facing (I'm not using their first names on purpose - you know who they are): Gore/Bradley; Bush/Dole; Ventura/Weicker; Nader/Fulani. We must ask ourselves, realistically and pragmatically: Would any of our past presidential candidates, including Paul or Clarke, stand a chance against this four-pronged onslaught of media, money and already well-established name recognition? It is time we begin a nationwide, serious effort to develop a candidate even the most principled Libertarian could support but who already has name recognition, like Friedman, or Eastwood, or Russell, or Downs, or....?????

Ron Bain
rez2word@aol.com

Golden Moments

by Tom Goonan

The city of Golden is presently engaged in several issues that involve growth. At its July 8 meeting, two growth-oriented ordinances were passed with only one dissenting vote each. Giving credit, where credit is due for representing the taxpayer, the dissenting vote was cast by Councilman Brian Starling.

Resolution 1011, approving an intergovernmental agreement between the City of Golden and Clear Creek County regarding a development plan for the Beaver Brook Watershed property and resolution of certain litigation between the city and Clear Creek County, was the first item to be passed. Years ago, Golden purchased the Beaver Brook Watershed in Clear Creek County to assure its water supply into the future. Presently, Golden finds itself enduring an excess of expenses above tax revenues, i.e., negative cash flow. To alleviate this cash flow challenge, the City wants to sell development rights to parts of the watershed lands.

The residents of Clear Creek County and environmental groups worked together to get Clear Creek County to re-zone the land to prevent Golden from developing it. After several months and half a million dollars in legal fees, the Colorado courts have come out for property rights by acknowledging that the city of Golden has no lesser right to do what it wants on its own property than a private owner, and Clear Creek's re-zoning was voided. The resulting intergovernmental agreement between the two has Golden restricting its development rights to 150, helicopter access only, parcels (minimum 35 acre), which the lawyers will probably buy with their fees, and Clear Creek agreeing to terminate the appeals process.

So, because the city of Golden cannot live within its means, wilderness land is opened to developers, ecosystem become fragmented, lawyers become rich, the City goes further into debt paying the

lawyers, and the utility of the land to serve its original purpose as a water source becomes questionable.

If you are wondering how Golden spends its money to get into a negative cash flow situation, then Ordinance 1462 might be instructive. It authorizes an Economic Development Commission to advise the Council on the state of Golden's economy (read that, the state of local business profits). Some of the citizens of Golden (more about them later) want to put an initiative on the ballot in November that would require the City to go to the voters to approve any subsidies for businesses. The Council opposes this as an infringement on their governing prerogatives. One way for the Council to diffuse the issue is to have this Economic Development Commission make recommendations about which businesses should be subsidized. To assure "fairness", the Council would have the commission members be nominated by (you guessed it) the Chamber of Commerce. One wonders why voters don't seem to connect growth with growth subsidy.

Now, about these active citizens opposing the subsidies, several have formed something called the Shadow Council. They are curmudgeons at their best. Two, Dave Kibler, and Bill Simpson, are running for Golden City Council in November, and they are actively accumulating signatures for the citizen's initiative to let voters decide subsidies. Yours truly is engaged in an on-going discussion with these Shadow Council members on how best to exchange support for our respective races, mine being for the Jefferson County School Board, District 3. All of these races are non-partisan, but the common theme among us is responsible governance, to actively limit the evil that lurks in the hearts of men.

Just one more thing. Our goal is to expand the coverage of city council meetings throughout the State. There are many reasons for doing this. First, it puts libertarians into the meetings where they can learn how things work, and how their principles can be applied to local issues. Another reason is to tie the many local issues into a coherent pattern. This will allow us to identify the *modus operandi* that special interests use to make others pay for their gains. Finally, this paper, as it grows and covers more and more city council meetings, can become a source for information for larger press organizations and that can be a benefit for us as they begin to cover of our statewide activities. So, please give some thought to how you might become one of our city council writers. Pick a city, and learn. You can get involved by calling Tom Goonan 303-202-9069, e-mail tgoonan@sprintmail.com.

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